



WISCONSIN DNR
FISHERIES INFORMATION SHEET

LAKE: OTTER

COUNTY: LANGLADE

YEAR: 2005

The Department of Natural Resources surveyed Otter Lake, Langlade County, from April 13 through May 9, 2005, to determine the health of its fishery. The primary objective of the survey was to estimate the abundance of the lake's adult walleye population. Otter Lake is a small, soft-water drained lake with predominantly gravel and sand substrate and a high-density walleye population. It has a surface area of 83 acres, 2.4 miles of shoreline and a maximum depth of 27 feet.

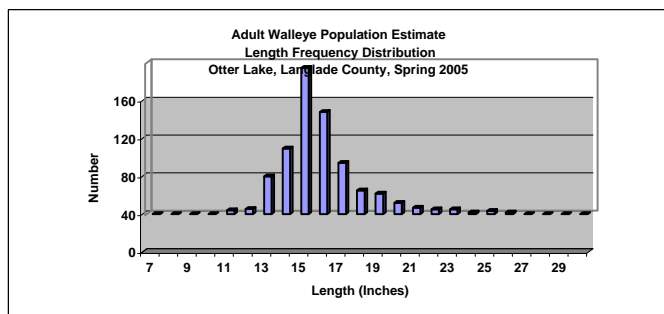


Figure 1. Length frequency distribution of 516 adult* walleye estimated to be in Otter Lake, Langlade County, based on a spring 2005 survey.

* Note: Adult walleye are defined as all sexable walleye and walleye of unknown sex ≥ 15 inches long.

Smallmouth Bass

Sampling through May 9th was conducted prior to peak smallmouth bass spawning. As a result, the Antigo crew only captured nine smallmouth bass, 8-inches or larger, during their fyke netting and electro-fishing sampling of Otter Lake. The largest smallmouth bass captured, the only one to exceed the 14-inch size limit, was 18.2 inches long.

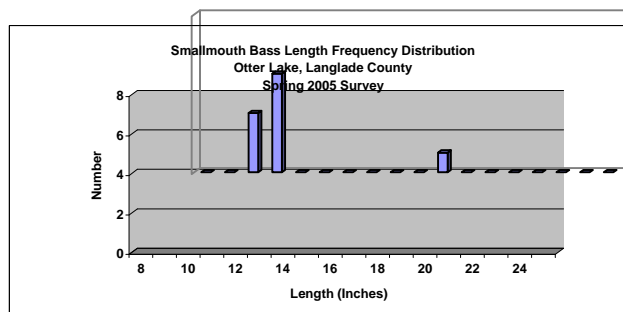


Figure 2. Length frequency distribution of nine smallmouth bass ≥ 8 " captured during a fisheries survey of Otter Lake, Langlade County, in spring 2005.

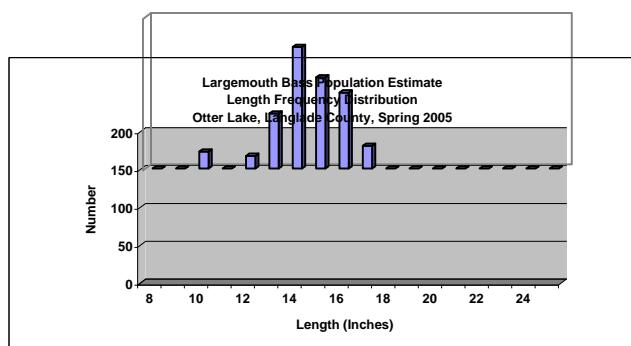


Figure 3. Length frequency distribution of 525 largemouth bass ≥ 8 " estimated to be in Otter Lake, Langlade County, based on a spring 2005 survey.

* Note: All values given above are for largemouth bass 8 inches long or larger.

Walleye

The Antigo fisheries crew conducted a mark-recapture survey of Otter Lake's adult* walleye population from April 13 through April 20, 2005. They captured and marked (fin clipped) 166 adult walleye in five days of fyke netting. Their crew sampled Otter Lake with an electro-fishing boat on April 20th and captured 128 adult walleye. Approximately 30% (39 of 128) of those walleye bore the fin clip given during fyke netting.

Based on those results, we estimated that Otter Lake was home to 516 adult walleye (6.2/acre). Approximately 77% (398 of 516) of adult walleye were 15 inches long or larger. The largest walleye they captured was a 26.7-inch female.

Largemouth Bass

The Antigo fisheries crew also completed a preliminary mark-recapture survey of Otter Lake's largemouth bass population from April 13 through May 9, 2005. They captured and marked 61 largemouth bass through April 20th. Their electro-fishing crew captured 63 largemouth bass on May 9th. Nearly 10% (6 of 63) of those largemouth had been marked (fin clipped) in previous sampling.

From those results, we estimated that 525 largemouth bass, 8-inches or larger, inhabited Otter Lake. Over 78% (412 of 525) of those largemouth were 14 inches long or larger. The biggest largemouth they captured was 17.2 inches long. Added sampling is planned to improve the bass population estimate.

Northern Pike

The Antigo fisheries crew captured 59 adult* northern pike in fyke nets fished in Otter Lake from April 13 through April 17, 2005. Nearly 95% (56 of 59) of adult northern pike they captured were less than 26 inches long. The largest northern pike they captured was a 34.7-inch female.

* Note: Adult northern pike are defined as all sexable northern pike and northern pike of unknown sex ≥ 12 inches long.

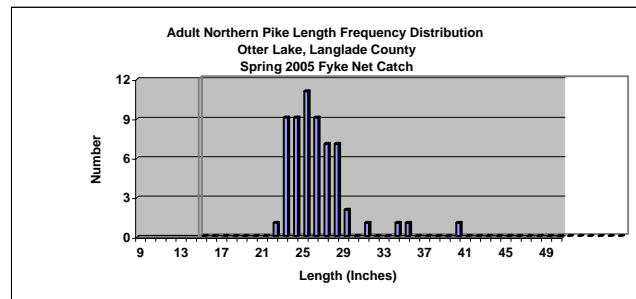


Figure 4. Length frequency distribution of 59 adult* northern pike captured in fyke nets during a fisheries survey of Otter Lake, Langlade County, in spring 2005.

Other Species

The Antigo fisheries crew captured nine species of fish in their fyke netting and electro-fishing sampling of Otter Lake in addition to the game fish mentioned above. Rock bass, white sucker and yellow perch were common in their fyke net catches. They also caught black crappie, bluegill, bluntnose minnow, common shiner, pumpkinseed, and yellow bullhead. Sampling of bass will continue through June 2005. Young-of-year walleye will be sampled in fall 2005.

We are also conducting a creel (angler harvest) survey on Otter Lake this year. Creel clerk Scott Yonker will count and interview anglers and examine their catch throughout the 2005 open-water fishing season.

Table 1. General Fishing Regulations for Otter Lake, Langlade County, 2005

FISH SPECIES	OPEN SEASON	DAILY LIMIT	MINIMUM LENGTH
Walleye	May 7 - March 5	5	15 inches
Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass	May 7 - June 17 (C&R) June 18 - March 5 (Harvest)	None 5 in total	14 inches
Muskellunge	May 28 - Nov. 30	1	34 inches
Northern Pike	May 7 - March 5	5	None

A brief summary of selected fishing regulations for Otter Lake is included above (Table 1). While the regulatory information provided was current at the time the surveys were conducted, it is not comprehensive and should not be used as a substitute for the current fishing regulation pamphlet. You may obtain a copy of current fishing regulations when you purchase your fishing license, or download a copy from our web site at:

<http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/water/fhp/fish/>

This report is interim only; data and findings should not be considered final. Results of creel surveys should be available by June 2006. If you are interested in a summary of the creel survey or want an update on this year's fyke netting and electro-fishing survey results, contact:

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